

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 05352 090923Z
ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 XMB-02 OPIC-03 FRB-03
/029 W

-----046772 091216Z /45

R 081615Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1914

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5352

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, YO, EFIN
SUBJECT: VISIT OF MOMCILO CEMOVIC TO U.S.

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 177527, (B) BELGRADE 5126
(C) STATE 184867

1. DCM YORK HAS MET CEMOVIC ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS AND DESCRIBES CEMOVIC AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE. I'VE ALWAYS FOUND CEMOVIC ACCESSIBLE AND FRIENDLY. HE HAS COME TO OUR JULY 4TH RECEPTIONS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AND HAS ALWAYS GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO BE CORDIAL. HE HAS A WIDE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, MANY OF THEM FELLOW MONTENEGRINS AND IN THEIR COMPANY I'VE OBSERVED HIM TO BE VERY GREGARIOUS, VERY WARM AND VERY WITTY. HE IS A MAN OF CONSIDERABLE PRESENCE AND A GREAT DEAL OF SELF ASSURANCE, BORDERING AT TIMES ON ARROGANCE. ALTHOUGH HE HAS A DEGREE IN ECONOMICS, HE HAS NEVER EXHIBITED A GREAT DEPTH OF UNDERSTANDING OR SHOPHSTICATION ABOUT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THIS IS NOT TO SUGGEST THAT HE IS IGNORANT ABOUT SUCH ISSUES, RATHER THAT HIS PERSPECTIVE IS THAT OF A POLITICIAN NOT AN ECONOMIST. MY IMPRESSIONS COINCIDE WITH THOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT HE IS A MAJOR STRATEGIST OR FORMULATOR OF BROAD ECONOMIC POLICY. RATHER HE IS AN

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PAGE 02 BELGRA 05352 090923Z

ADMINISTRATOR OR EXECUTOR OF OTHER PEOPLE'S PROGRAMS. IN HIS MINISTRY, HOWEVER, I HAVE THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT HE IS BOSS AND THAT HE, RATHER THAN HIS STAFF, IS THE FINAL DECISION-MAKER. HE IS USUALLY WELL BRIEFED AND HE CERTAINLY WILL BE ABLE TO CONVERSE INTELLIGENTLY ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. UNQUOTE.

2. CEMOVIC HAS TRAVELED WIDELY IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CIRCLES (IMF AND IBRD) AND SHOULD HAVE SEVERAL ACQUAINTANCES IN WASHINGTON. RAYMOND ALBRIGHT OF EXIM HAS MET HIM SEVERAL TIMES AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL IMPRESSIONS.

3. (A) CEMOVIC WILL PROBABLY REVIEW THE GENERAL YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC SITUATION AND RECENT YUGOSLAV LEGISLATION IN THE FIELDS OF JOINT VENTURES, BANKING, AND FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES.
(B) HE WILL BE PRIMED TO DISCUSS "INTERDEPENDENCE", NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES, AND SPECIFICALLY, WHAT THE U.S. HAS IN MIND AS A FOLLOW-UP TO CIEC. CEMEOVIC WILL TAKE THE LINE THAT CIEC ONLY PAPERED OVER THE REAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH AND THAT A NEW AND SINCERE EFFORT ON THE FACT OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS IS IMPERATIVE. SINCE GOY BELIEVES THE CIEC HAD NO VALUE ASIDE FROM GETTING THE NORTH AND SOUTH TO SIT DOWN TOGETHER, THEY MAINTAIN THAT WHAT LITTLE MOMENTUM WAS GENERATED IN PARIS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO DISSIPATE.

4. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR INFORMATION THAT YUGOSLAVIA MAY REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR OPIC INSURANCE. REQUEST THAT WE BE INFORMED OF OPIC BOARD DECISION SEPTEMBER 20 BY IMMEDIATE CABLE. IF GOY CUT OFF, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BELGRA 05352 090923Z

EMBASSY WILL INFORM FINANCE MINISTRY BEFORE VISIT.
EAGLEBURGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELGRA05352
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770286-0070
Format: TEL
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770887/aaaacvnu.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 04db5160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION TRSE
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 177527, 77 BELGRADE 5126, 77 STATE 184867
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1679518
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF MOMCILO CEMOVIC TO U.S.
TAGS: PINR, EFIN, YO, (CEMOVIC, MOMCILO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/04db5160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009